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Approved For Release 2004/01/28 : CIA-RDP82-00457R008800140012-1

COUNTRY

Germany (Soviet Zone)

TOPIC

Military Information from Weisswasser.

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DATE PREPARED 6 September 1951

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REFERENCE COPY

1. In late July and early August 1951, most of the troops at the Weisswasser (O 52/ A 71) troop training grounds wore red-bordered black epaulets and only a very few wore black-bordered crimson epaulets. About 30 percent of the troops wore golden or silver artillery insignia, 5 percent golden motor transport insignia, 5 percent signal insignia while 40 percent wore no branch-of-service insignia at all. In winter, the home stations of the units were Cottbus, Luebben and Vetschau.

2. The following observations were made at the Weisswasser railroad station:

24 July. Two T-34 tanks and 1 JS tank were unloaded.

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27 July. Trucks [redacted] picked up 17 officers and 40 EM with light baggage who arrived aboard a regular train from Cottbus. *

28 July. A freight train which left the station toward Koenigswusterhausen included two gondola cars, each carrying 1 truck and 1 sedan with 1 officer and 10 EM. [redacted]

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30 July. Three T-34 tanks were unloaded and left toward the troop camp.

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[redacted]

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4. Vehicles observed in the training area on 27 and 28 July included trucks [redacted] epaulets; trucks [redacted] driven by soldiers with red-bordered black [redacted] each with 30 officers; and sedan [redacted] with two field-grade officers. *

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[redacted]

5. Ninety recruits wearing red-bordered black epaulets detrained from 3 railroad cars at the Weisswasser freight yard on 4 August. Railroadmen stated that shipments of troops frequently arrived but they never observed heavy weapons.

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Document No. 10
No Change in Class. ☐
☐ Declassified
Class. Changed To: TS S 0
Auth: MR 70-2
APR 1978

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The security of the Weisswasser railroad station was particularly good as it is a so-called "Youth Station", which is operated exclusively by FDJ railroadmen. ***

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Comment. The information indicates no substantial changes at the Weisswasser training grounds. The home stations specified in the present report were stated correctly, but failed to include Spremberg where the 80th Gds Hvy Tank Bt Regt of the 9th Mecz Div is stationed.

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The vehicle mentioned in the present report belong exclusively to components of the 9th Mecz Div.

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Comment. The regiment is stationed in Luebben. The shipment

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observed is believed to have been a component of the regiment which was going to Luebben.

Comment. It has been repeatedly observed that some of the recruits of the Soviet Zone of Germany have been receiving basic training at the military posts of their respective units. The shipment of recruits mentioned in the present report probably came from one of the posts of the 9th Mecz Div.

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